

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2040

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Civil Rights Act of
5 1964 Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress hereby finds as follows:

8 (1) On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks’ brave
9 act of defiance, refusing to give up her seat to a
10 white person on a segregated bus in Montgomery,

1 Alabama, galvanized the modern civil rights move-
2 ment and led to the desegregation of the South.

3 (2) On February 1, 1960, 4 college students,
4 Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, David Richmond,
5 and Ezell Blair, Jr., asked to be served at a lunch
6 counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, and lunch
7 counter sit-ins began to occur throughout the South
8 to challenge segregation in places of public accom-
9 modation.

10 (3) On May 4, 1961, the Freedom Rides into
11 the South began to test new court orders barring
12 segregation in interstate transportation, and riders
13 were jailed and beaten by mobs in several places, in-
14 cluding Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama.

15 (4) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the lead-
16 ing civil rights advocate of the time, spearheading
17 the civil rights movement in the United States dur-
18 ing the 1950s and 1960s with the goal of nonviolent
19 social change and full civil rights for African Ameri-
20 cans.

21 (5) On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther
22 King, Jr., led over 250,000 civil rights supporters in
23 the March on Washington and delivered his famous
24 “I Have A Dream” speech to raise awareness and
25 support for civil rights legislation.

1 (6) Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a leading partici-
2 pant in the American civil rights movement, was
3 side-by-side with her husband, Dr. Martin Luther
4 King, Jr., during many civil rights marches, orga-
5 nized Freedom Concerts to draw attention to the
6 Movement, and worked in her own right to create an
7 America in which all people have equal rights.

8 (7) The mass movement sparked by Rosa Parks
9 and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., among oth-
10 ers, called upon the Congress and Presidents John
11 F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to pass civil
12 rights legislation which culminated in the enactment
13 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

14 (8) The Civil Rights Act of 1964 greatly ex-
15 panded civil rights protections, outlawing racial dis-
16 crimination and segregation in public places and
17 places of public accommodation, in federally funded
18 programs, and employment and encouraging deseg-
19 regation in public schools, and has served as a model
20 for subsequent anti-discrimination laws.

21 (9) We are an eminently better Nation because
22 of Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and all
23 those men and women who have confronted, and
24 continue to confront, injustice and inequality wher-
25 ever they see it.

1 (10) Equality in education was one of the cor-
2 nerstones of the civil rights movement.

3 (11) On September 10, 1961, Dr. Martin Lu-
4 ther King, Jr., wrote that African American “stu-
5 dents are coming to understand that education and
6 learning have become tools for shaping the future
7 and not devices of privilege for an exclusive few”.

8 (12) Over its long and distinguished history,
9 the United Negro College Fund has provided schol-
10 arships and operating funds to its member colleges
11 that have enabled more than 300,000 young African
12 Americans to earn college degrees and become suc-
13 cessful members of society.

14 (13) Those graduates include Dr. Martin Lu-
15 ther King, Jr., as well as leaders in the fields of edu-
16 cation, science, medicine, law, entertainment, lit-
17 erature, the military, and politics who have made
18 major contributions to the civil rights movement and
19 the creation of a more equitable society.

20 (14) Congress has an obligation to lead Amer-
21 ica’s continued struggle to fight discrimination and
22 ensure equal rights for all.

23 (15) The year 2014 will mark the
24 semicentennial of the passage of the Civil Rights Act
25 of 1964.

1 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
4 shall mint and issue not more than 350,000 \$1 coins each
5 of which shall—

- 6 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
7 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
8 (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent
9 copper.

10 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
11 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
12 title 31, United States Code.

13 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
14 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
15 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

16 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

17 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The design of the
18 coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
19 enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its con-
20 tribution to civil rights in America.

21 (b) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin
22 minted under this Act there shall be—

- 23 (1) a designation of the value of the coin;
24 (2) an inscription of the year “2014”; and

1 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
2 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
3 “E Pluribus Unum”.

4 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
5 under this Act shall be—

6 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
7 with the Commission of Fine Arts; and

8 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
9 Committee established under section 5135 of title
10 31, United States Code.

11 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

12 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
13 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

14 (b) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary
15 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January
16 1, 2014, except that the Secretary may initiate sales of
17 such coins, without issuance, before such date.

18 (c) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No
19 coins shall be minted under this Act after December 31,
20 2014.

21 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

22 (a) SALE PRICE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
23 sion of law, the coins issued under this Act shall be sold
24 by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of the face
25 value of the coins, the surcharge required under section

1 7(a) for the coins, and the cost of designing and issuing
2 such coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
3 ery, overhead expenses, and marketing).

4 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
5 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
6 discount.

7 (c) PREPAID ORDERS AT A DISCOUNT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
9 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
10 before the issuance of such coins.

11 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
12 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
13 sonable discount.

14 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

15 (a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales shall include
16 a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

17 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
18 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are re-
19 ceived by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under
20 this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the
21 United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to carry out the pur-
22 poses of the Fund, including providing scholarships and
23 internships for minority students and operating funds and
24 technology enhancement services for 39 member histori-
25 cally black colleges and universities.

1 (c) AUDITS.—The United Negro College Fund shall
2 be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2)
3 of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the
4 amounts received by the Fund under subsection (b).

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